



HOWARD GILMAN

(February 15, 1924 – January 3, 1998)

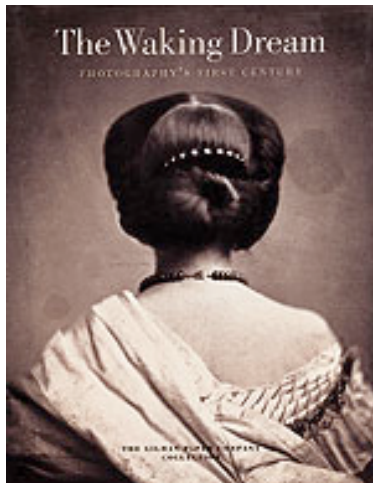
Howard Gilman was born in New York City in 1924, the son of Charles and Sylvia Gilman. He began his education at the School for Ethical Culture, and later studied at the Hunter College Model School for gifted students earning his high school diploma from the latter. He enrolled at Dartmouth College where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa, graduating in 1943 at the age of nineteen. Although he was nominated for a Rhodes scholarship for his achievements at Dartmouth, the war years prevented him from pursuing studies abroad, and he remained in the United States to train as a Japanese linguist preparing to become a code-breaker in United States Naval Intelligence at the end of World War II. Later in life, he was awarded honorary doctorates from the Julliard School and the University of Tel Aviv for his achievements in arts patronage.

As chairman and chief executive of Gilman Paper Company, Howard Gilman was the third generation of his family to assume leadership of the largest privately held paper and building products company in the United States. The company was founded in 1884 in New York by Howard Gilman's grandfather, Isaac Gilman, who emigrated from Belarus at the age of ten to become a dealer in over issue newspapers, which were used at the time as wrapping paper. As the company grew, Isaac added timberland and paper mills, and moved the company to a Vermont town that would be renamed Gilman in recognition of the family's contributions to the community. It was perhaps from his paternal grandfather that Howard Gilman inherited both his impressive business acumen and his profound commitment to the employees of this company.

In the 1930s, Howard Gilman's father, Charles Gilman, relocated the company's principal manufacturing operations to the town of St. Marys, Georgia. Having worked in various capacities for the company throughout his career, Howard Gilman assumed the chairmanship in 1973, helping the company to continue its growth and profitability as he split his time between the company's headquarters in New York City and its private estate, White Oak Plantation, in Yulee, Florida, located across the border from the mills in Georgia. Howard Gilman studied in and traveled to various cities and countries throughout his career, but spent the vast majority of his life in New York and at White Oak, communities integral to his family's business and social relations.

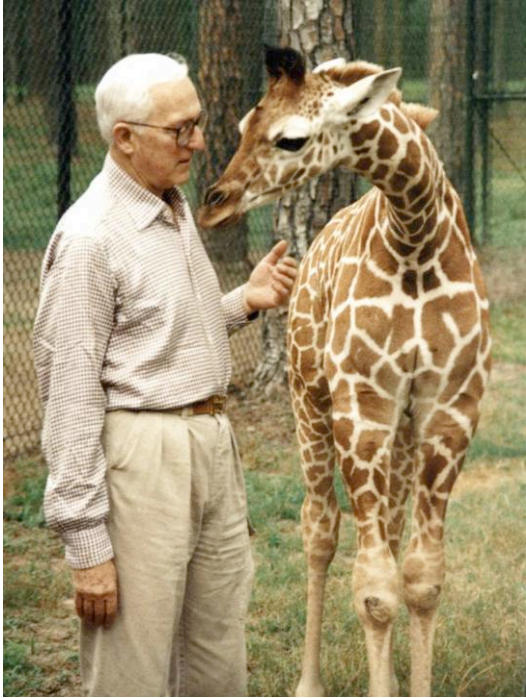
Howard Gilman's interest did, however, expand well beyond those of the paper industry, and in 1981 he founded The Howard Gilman Foundation in order to support his artistic and animal conservation concerns, as well as to support medical research in the fields of HIV/AIDS and cardiology. Under his guidance, the Foundation's programming evolved over the years, increasing its contributions to various artistic, medical, social, and environmental endeavors, most of which benefited greatly from his insights and experience.

One area of the arts where Howard Gilman felt a particularly strong passion was dance. During his lifetime he befriended many dancers and choreographers including Mikhail Baryshnikov, whom he helped to settle in New York immediately following his defection from the Soviet Union. Later, when Baryshnikov expressed an eagerness to work with contemporary American Choreographers, he offered White Oak Plantation as an avenue for creative collaboration between Baryshnikov and Mark Morris, thereby creating The White Oak Dance Project in 1989. Howard Gilman supported many dance companies over the years including world – renowned classical dance companies such as American Ballet Theatre and a variety of smaller dance companies, primarily based in New York.



Although Howard Gilman's tastes in the fine arts were eclectic, ranging from architectural drawings and modern art to ceramics and folk art, it was in the area of photography where he had the most influence. The photography collection of the Gilman Company, portions of which have been exhibited at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Edinburgh Festival, and the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C., is recognized as one of the most important in the world. A 1993 show at the Metropolitan Museum, "The Waking Dream: Photography's First Century," was heralded by John Russell in the New York Times as "an event of cardinal importance in the museum world." "The collection", he wrote, "bears at every point the mark of an original, resourceful, and unprejudiced curiosity." Sharing his concern that photography be available to and recognized by the

public as an inspiring art form, The Metropolitan Museum of Art inaugurated in October 1997 the museum's first permanent gallery devoted to photography, The Howard Gilman Gallery. In 2005 the Howard Gilman Foundation donated the entire collection to the Metropolitan Museum in New York City, ensuring that the photographs would be a focus of the Museum's effort to exhibit art to the people of New York and the world.



As a true animal lover throughout his life, Howard Gilman became dedicated to the conservation of endangered species. With the help of a staff of conservation biologists and veterinarians, Howard Gilman built over the course of many years the White Oak Conservation Center, an extraordinary animal conservation project specializing in the managed breeding of endangered animal species in order to maintain their genetic viability. Among the 35 species housed at the White Oak Conservation Center, are okapi, cheetahs, black rhinos, and palm cockatoos. The program serves as an excellent training program for students studying animal behavior and veterinary medicine. White Oak Plantation has come to exemplify the diversity and depth of Howard Gilman's interests, serving as an important venue for a variety of functions sponsored by the Foundation and Gilman Companies. It was perhaps the animal conservation program of which Howard Gilman was most proud.

Howard Gilman was the last direct descendant of Isaac Gilman. With his passing, the legacy of three generations of the Gilman family will be carried on by The Howard Gilman Foundation, which will strive to support the philanthropic vision of its founder in protecting the natural heritage of the Earth, providing opportunities for artistic creation and developing new approaches in cardiac medicine. The vision of Howard Gilman lives on at White Oak, enhanced by the personal caring that he showed in all areas of his life.

